

**REMARKS**

The applicants have carefully considered the restriction requirement dated December 29, 2008. With the foregoing amendments, claims 1-21 remain pending and at issue and claims 22-24 have been canceled without prejudice. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants hereby elect the invention of claims 1-21, drawn to a stent.

If there is any matter that the examiner would like to discuss, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required during the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 50-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

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